



The Redeemer Review

Proclaiming Christ into the 21st Century

Volume 12

December, 2008

**Pastor's
Corner**

Christmas: A Season of Growth



The Christmas season is upon us again with its wonderful possibilities. When we were children, this season was a wonderful time of imagination. We were entertained by stories of elves, flying reindeer and Dr. Seuss's evil Mr. Grinch. Our imagination was not limited to cultural characters, but we also could imagine the plight of a young expecting mother named Mary, a conflicted father named Joseph and a baby named Jesus lying in a manger. In our minds eye we could see shepherds in a field, wise men travelling by a star and the coming of hope and love in the form of this little child nestled in a manger.

This celebration of Christ's birth is truly a wonderful time to fire our imagination, and not just for those who are children. Christmas

invites us to imagine that we can continue to grow in love with God and each other; to imagine that peace is a possibility in our lives and in our world; and to imagine that we are part of a holy journey, a sacred enterprise, the living of a hope filled, love sharing life. **AND**, as we imagine, so then it can become a part of our life.

This Christmas let us *lay aside the distractions* of consumerism, days filled with activities that distract us from the ways of love, and a *cultural faith* that puts life style above purpose. **Imagine**, this Christmas, that Jesus' birth will not only be a story we read from the gospels, but a story that lifts each of us in ways of hope and new birth.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Bill



Redeemer Review

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Our Redeemer's

United Methodist Church

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Marianne Rogenski

Director of Discipleship:

Carolyn Meneely

Co-Editors:

Jim Cottrell & Jerry Mc Daniel

Gifts From the Heart

On behalf of ChildServ, I would like to thank the 67 families who bought Christmas gifts for 110 children served by ChildServ. It is always so heart warming to see how our congregation responds to this program and provides so generously.

Remember the gifts need to be returned on Sunday morning, December 7. Please follow the instructions given to you with the child's information. Also, if you would be willing to help deliver the gifts to ChildServ the afternoon of December 7, please contact **Carol Hollingsworth**, 847-882-6116 or clh1325@comcast.net.

New Member Invitation Meeting

December 14, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. - after both worship services

If you are considering making ***Our Redeemer's*** your spiritual home, there will be informational meetings on Sunday December 14 after both services, at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. You will be able to learn about the United Methodist Church and ***Our Redeemer's***, our work together in our church community and throughout the world.

We invite you to become a part of our church family on your faith journey, joining us in worship and fellowship. Please call **Carolyn Meneely** at 847-882-6116, ext 107 or e-mail carolyn@orumc.org to sign up.



Personal GPS

Our car has GPS (Global Positioning System) capabilities built in. We have come to rely on it much more than I thought we would when we first got it. Our GPS girl, Renee, took a carload of workers to and from both mission trips last summer, to ASP in Tennessee and Katrina Relief in Mississippi. It's even better than GoogleMaps or MapQuest; if we make a wrong turn, she recalculates and provides a new route. Not only does she get us where we need to go, but she can also find POI's (Points of Interest) like restaurants and gas stations, parks and Interstate rest areas.

Recently my husband, **Doug**, and I visited our daughter and her family near Seattle, WA. We used a rental car - without a GPS system - to get around. Many times I would reach for those GPS buttons on the dashboard, wishing I could hear Renee's voice when I was not sure where I was. That temporary lost feeling reminded me of other times I felt lost.

Every Christian is lucky to have a different kind of GPS, a God Positioning System. In most situations, faith in God will "map" the way we need to go. The Bible and Jesus' teachings provide guidance whenever we are not sure which way to turn. Worshipping and being part of an active, loving and grace filled congregation supplies a more varied list of POI's than any satellite GPS.

Well, maybe this not-so-original analogy is a little simplistic. But during Advent and Christmas, I can't help thinking about the guidance God provided the shepherds and Wise Men using angelic choirs and a bright star so many years ago.

Just as God used the Star to guide the Wise Men to the stable with the Holy Child, He will guide us to the same Christ Child today. I wish you a joyous and faith-full Christmas season.

Carolyn Meneely
Director of Discipleship



Youth News

by Marianne Rogenski

Appalachia Service Project (ASP) News

We have applied and already have our ASP date for 2009! Our team will head to Appalachia June 13-20, 2009. We don't have an assignment yet, but at least you can get the date on your calendar!

If you are interested in going on this trip, please make every effort to make our first meeting—December 4, 2008, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. If you are interested in going and cannot make this meeting, please contact **Marianne** right away.

Confirmation News

December 7

Confirmation class, 7:30-8:30pm

December 14, 21, 28, January 4

- NO class

Even though there is no class, we would encourage you to still come to the 633 service each Sunday night!

Don't forget to fill out your forms anytime you are in a church worship service or anytime you serve the church. If you don't know where these are or forget where they are, contact **Marianne**.

Sr. High News

December 7, youth group, 7:30-8:30pm

December 14, 21, 28, January 4

- NO youth group

Even though there is no youth group we still encourage you to come to the 633 service each Sunday night!

Upcoming Events

30 Hour Famine will be February 27-28 with Famine Sunday being March 1, 6:33pm. Youth Council will be handing out participant packets at the beginning of January so be on the lookout!

633 Worship

Join us for our Advent Series titled "Christmas on the Big Screen!" Come and see how the popular Christmas movies, "Elf," "The Polar Express," and "A Charlie Brown Christmas" relate to themes of materialism, faith and the true meaning of Christmas. As Christians, we can learn a lot from these three movies and the messages that they are sending.

This series will start on Sunday, November 30 and run through Sunday, December 21.

Please note that there will be no 6:33 on Sunday, December 14 due to the all church Vespers Service.

What can Batman and Robin, Wonder Woman and the Amazing Spiderman teach us about our walk with Christ? Come and join us for our series titled, "Superhero Parables" starting on Sunday, January 4. We will explore how these common superheroes can show us how we should walk out our lives as Christians. We all want to be superheroes, but God doesn't need us to possess super human powers to do His work. We can all be superheroes through God!



Sunday School News from the Education Committee

Vacation Bible School in December? It's the opposite of Christmas in July! On Dec 1, 2008 at 7:00 pm there will be a VBS organizational meeting for next summer. We would like everyone interested in helping, in any way, to come join us.

As we enter the Christmas season, the Sunday School children will be learning about the story of Bethlehem, the small town where Micah proclaimed that the Messiah would be born. We'll be telling stories of Jesus also, such as how he taught in the temple at such a very young age.

If you would like to know more about what the children are doing in Sunday School, we have added a link to our *Live Big* curriculum on the *Our Redeemer's* website www.orumc.org.

On December 14 at the 9:00 service, the children will deliver the message, singing songs and telling stories. Also in December, we will be talking about the Heifer Project and encouraging the children to fill their Heifer ark banks with change. The entire congregation will be trying to fill an ark to help feed the hungry throughout the world. The ark banks are due back to the teachers on Sunday, January 4, 2009.

There will be NO Sunday School on December 28, 2008. Please remind your children to give their favorite teacher a Christmas note. The teachers love to receive thanks from their students.

Doug Meneely
Education Committee
Chairman

DVD Player Needed

A DVD player is needed for use in the High School Sunday School room. If you have one you would like to donate, please contact Donna in the office.

C.R.O.P WALK 2008

Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty

The CROP WALK donations totaled \$2,391.00. Thank you sponsors for your generosity! A special thank you to **Hannah Greenwalt, Ryan Greenwalt**, two of their friends, **Billy Esposito** and **Ruby Montgomery** for walking or riding to serve others. It was great having the youth join us. Thanks, too, to **Nancy** and **Randy Schmidt** for helping with route marshal duties. To **Abby** and **Jason Betts, Jim Naatz, Doug** and **Carolyn Meneely, Don Wiebel, Melinda Taylor, Rob Mottar, Laura Ziebel, Edie** and **John Machonis, Shirley** and **Jerry McDaniel, Jon Montgomery** and **Jamie Addams, Diep Nguyen** and **Gwyn Greenwalt: Great Job Walkers!** Thanks, too, to **Pastor Bill**, the Micah Ministry Committee, Caring Ministries, The Tech Group and **Jon Montgomery** and **Jamie Addams** for all they did to make this event a success. Definitely a team effort.

The money that was donated will not only help support immediate and long term needs in other countries, but 25% will stay in our community to help fund Pads, the Schaumburg Food Pantry and the Kenneth Young Center.

Way to go, church family! We are making a difference in our world. Looking forward to walking with you again next year.

Carolyn Meneely
Edie Machonis
CROP WALK Co-ordinators



Rejoice,
Give Thanks
and RING!

The Music Committee and Chancel Chimes are rejoicing over the addition of handbells to our music program. We are thankful for the gift in memory of **Frances Draba** and to the **Ken Finke** estate for making this possible.

We will be “ringing” in the season at Vespers on December 14 at 4:00 p.m.



Christmas
Vespers
Dec 14,
4:00 p.m.

The music groups of ORUMC invite you to Vespers at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 14. A service of music and scripture will be presented by the Cherub Choir, Random Ringers, Joyful Noise, Ember Days, Sounds of Grace, Chancel Chimes, Men’s Chorus, and Chancel Choir.

Please join us in celebrating this advent and Christmas season.

The 6:33 service will not be held that evening.

Church Ladies Nite Out

December 17, 7:00 p.m.

The Church Ladies will be going out Wednesday, December 17 to Omega on Wise Road or on Irving Park Road depending on how you drive to get there! Please join us and ring a friend!

If you are in need of a ride or have any questions, please call **Bev Wilkes** at 847-882-6116. Come join us in good Christmas fellowship, good food and good fun!



Crisis Center Needs

CCC is still collecting items for the December holiday meal giveaway. Items needed include: boxes of mashed potato mixes, large cans of yams, boxes of instant stuffing, gravy mixes, 15 oz. cans of cranberry sauce, vegetables and fruit, and dessert mixes (brownies, cakes, etc.)

They also need Christmas gifts for children (non-violent toys for ages 1-12 years): Dolls, Puzzles, Games, Action Figures, trucks and cars. They also need teen gifts such as: Walkman or similar type items, wristwatches, wallets/purses on a string, bath sets (lotion/gel/etc.)

Discretionary Fund

Did you know that you could contribute to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund? This money is used by **Pastor Bill** to help people from our church and others that are having trouble making ends meet due to a loss of a job, illness or other situations.

To contribute just indicate your intentions on your check.

Movie Memorabilia

Coming attractions! What's the buzz about Oscar and the Academy Awards? Coming soon to a theater (or church) near you! **Our Redeemer's** is planning a movie memorabilia get-together with silent auction of film mementos in February 2009. We have t-shirts, posters and other memorabilia from more than 100 movies, including: *There's Something About Mary*, *Dr. Doolittle*, *Mrs. Doubtfire*, and *The Patriot*. The items were donated by **Dann Gire**, movie critic for the *Daily Herald* newspaper. Proceeds will be used for **Richard Vales** mission in the Philippines.

Keep watching for further previews on the big screens on Sunday mornings.



Church Christmas Caroling Saturday, December 13, 2:30 p.m.

Join us at the church at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 13 for Christmas caroling. We will visit Friendship Village as well as other locations throughout the Schaumburg area, and then return to church for hot chocolate and a potluck dinner. We'll provide Sloppy Joes and hot dogs, but would welcome buns, chips/side dishes, or desserts.

If you know someone who could use a visit from our carolers, or if you have any questions, please contact **Gwyn Greenwalt** at 847-882-6116.

United Methodist Men District Advent Breakfast December 13, 8:00 a.m. Calvary UMC, Villa Park

All men of *Our Redeemer's* are invited to join Elgin District United Methodist Men's Advent Breakfast meeting on December 13, 8:00 a.m. at Calvary UMC in Villa Park.

We will cancel our regular December meeting and instead meet at 7:30 a.m. at church and carpool to Villa Park.

January Meeting Date Change January 3, 8:00 a.m.

In January the UMM will meet on the first Saturday instead of the normal second Saturday and help take down the Christmas decorations in the church.

A continental breakfast breakfast will be available and we will introduce our new study program.

Finance Report

The following is our status through the end of October. The reduction in the Sprint rent and increase of \$275,000 in Other Income reflects the sale of the Sprint Lease. The increase in expenses of \$273,643 reflects the final pay-off of our mortgage.

YTD Actual vs. Budget Through October 2008

	Actual	Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Congregation Gifts & Tithes	252,857	266,303	(13,446)	-5%
Sprint & T-Mobile Rent	12,693	30,178	(17,485)	-58%
Other Income	298,922	20,380	278,542	n/m
Total Income	564,472	316,861	247,610	78%
Total Expenses	566,256	330,406	235,850	81%
Net Income (Loss)	(1,784)	(13,544)	11,761	n/m



Christmas Giving: Heifer Project

Christmas is a wonderful time of year for those of us who follow Jesus. We remember the hope that God sent into the world with the birth of his son. So often, however what is for us a simple time of receiving God's gift of a child, has become a time of frustration. With Christmas literally becoming a marketing event, it often loses its significance as a time of hope and a time of grace. In our rush to make sure we fulfill the cultural obligations of the season, and do the things "expected" of us by society, we often forget what this season is about.

Again this year we would like to encourage you to reclaim Christmas in your practice of gift giving, by giving to the Heifer Project. Through the Heifer Project we contribute money to purchase heifers, goats, chickens, llamas and other livestock that are given to families in need around the world.

Many of you have purchased some of these as a gift for your family and friends in the past. In doing that, you have not only provided a way for families to feed themselves around the world, you have also reclaimed the true spirit of the Christ child. Please consider becoming part of this giving program and reclaim the true meaning of the season.

Volunteers will be in the Narthex between services during Advent to accept Heifer donations and provide cards for gift giving. Visit www.heifer.org for more information.

You can purchase your 'animal gifts' with cash or checks. Checks should be made payable to ***Our Redeemer's*** United Methodist Church, with 'Heifer' noted on the memo line.

If you have any questions, please contact **Julie Kuhn** at 847-882-6116.



Blood Drive December 4

Our Redeemer's will host the Schaumburg area blood drive on Thursday, December 4 from 3:00 to 8:30 p.m. On Sundays during November you can make a reservation to donate. You can also feel free to drop in and donate.

Have Yourself a “Merry Micah” Christmas

Micah Ministries, our church’s social justice ministry, invites you to celebrate Christmas with an emphasis on fighting hunger and injustice. Celebrate it as the joyous event that it is, of course, but here are three “Micah Ministries” that you might include in your Christmas season.

Heifer Project

Heifer International fulfills Micah Ministries’ mission of getting to the root of hunger. Heifer provides needy communities and individuals with quality livestock and the training necessary to raise and breed these self-sustaining animals. Heifer projects are found all around the world. Our Micah group even took a “field trip” this past summer to “Growing Home, Inc.”, a Heifer project located in Chicago. We strongly encourage all members of Our Redeemers to support the Heifer project by making a donation, or even buying an animal in a loved one’s name.

Fair Trade Products

“Fair trade” means that the person producing or growing a product gets a fair portion of its sale. Our church participates in fair trade through Equal Exchange, a multi-denominational organization that includes the United Methodist Church. Micah Ministries has been selling fair trade coffee, cocoa, and tea on the second Sunday of the month for over a year now. Please consider buying gifts of these fair trade products on Sunday, December 14.

You might also consider buying fair trade products at the Bright Hope gift shop at 2060 Stonington Avenue in Hoffman Estates (224-520-6100). Bright Hope International is a Christian relief and development ministry that trains impoverished persons around the world in craft skills such as woodworking or jewelry-making, then provides a market for their fair trade sales.

Send Your Representative a Card

No doubt you’ll be sending out plenty of Christmas cards this year, and no doubt politicians enjoy receiving cards like everyone else. Why not include your representative, your senator, and maybe even President-elect Obama on your Christmas card list. You might also include a reminder that our nation has pledged to fulfill the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals, reducing by half the proportion of people living in poverty and hunger, by the year 2015. Remind them it’s only six years away and we’re far behind on our pledge.

Disaster Assistance

Homeowners, renters and business owners who sustained losses or damage during the recent flooding may be eligible for disaster aid. Information is available in the church office.

You may also call FEMA at 800-621-3362 or check online at www.fema.gov.

Scrapbook Club

December Date Change

December 12, 6:30 - 11:00 p.m.

If you are a scrapbooker, paper crafter, or just plain curious to see what it is all about, come to church December 12. We meet at 6:30 p.m. in Wesley Hall. Bring all of your own supplies and snacks. No reservations required

Crop for a Cause

March 7, 2009

Tickets for *Crop for a Cause: Making MS a Memory* scrapbook night are on sale now. Last year tickets were sold out by the 1st week in January. Go to www.cropforacausemakingmsamemory.com for a registration form.

UMW Help Available

In these difficult times, the United Methodist Women have decided to sponsor a team who will be available to help you. Do you need information, transportation, etc?

Call the church office, 847-882-6116, or e-mail orumc@orumc.org. Your confidentiality will be honored.

Mom's Night Out

December 4, 7:00 p.m.

The Melting Pot

Join Mom's Night Out and enjoy an evening of good food and fellowship. Mom's night out is for all mothers but especially those who have child who are school age or younger. All are welcome. You do not need to be a member of *Our Redeemer's* to attend!

The meal at the Melting Pot on Golf Road is a Lady's Night special - \$15 for a cheese, salad and dessert fondue.

Reservations are required for this evening.

For more information contact **Annette Brown**, 847-882-6116 or email annetteb421@sbcglobal.net.

Mark your calendar for our next Mom's Night Out. It will be Thursday January 8 at 7:00 p.m. at TGI Fridays on Barrington Road in Hoffman Estates.

UMW Meeting

December 13, 9:00 a.m.

The United Methodist Women will have their annual Christmas Breakfast Meeting and multicultural ornament exchange.

All women of *Our Redeemer's* are invited to join in.



Personal Notes



Jean Sepich

The congregation welcomes **Jean Sepich** to the *Our Redeemer's* family.



Baptism

Tyler Anthony Spejcher was baptized November 23. His proud parents are **Richard M Spejcher** and **Darcy L Cushing**.

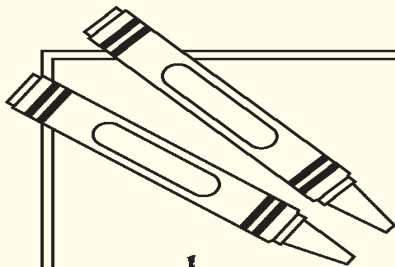


Matthew Young	12/5
Meghan Lowry	12/6
Blake Breda	12/7
Joseph Dombek	12/8
Chalisa Kulprathipanja	12/14
Abigail Hill	12/21
Jill Murphy	12/22
Dominic Gomes	12/27
Brendan Gorvett	12/27
Eric Theile	12/27
Nick Pope	12/29



Deaths

Deepest sympathy to the **Carlson** Sisters and their families on the death of their uncle, **Herman Zelk**.



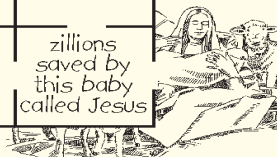
Just for **KIDS**

The Story of Jesus' Birth

Jesus' birth is recorded in three New Testament chapters: Matthew 1 and 2, and Luke 2. Follow some important words about our Savior's birth by starting at a word beginning with the letter **A** and finishing with a word starting with the letter **Z**.



	angels	Bethlehem	car	dance	easel
cat	bear	child	donkey	egg	fast
holy	glory	flocks	Earth	feathers	gap
inn	jacket	grapes	peace	quiet	hat
Joseph	king	Lord	only	righteous	shepherds
kelp	loop	Mary	night	unique	tidings
last	maze	paper	wise men	virgin	water
open	nest	word	excitement	young	zillions saved by this baby called Jesus



Answer: angels, Bethlehem, child, donkey, Earth, flocks, glory, holy, inn, Joseph, king, Lord, Mary, night, only, peace, quiet, righteous, shepherds, tidings, unique, virgin, wise men, excitement, young, zillions saved by this baby called Jesus

Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church

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